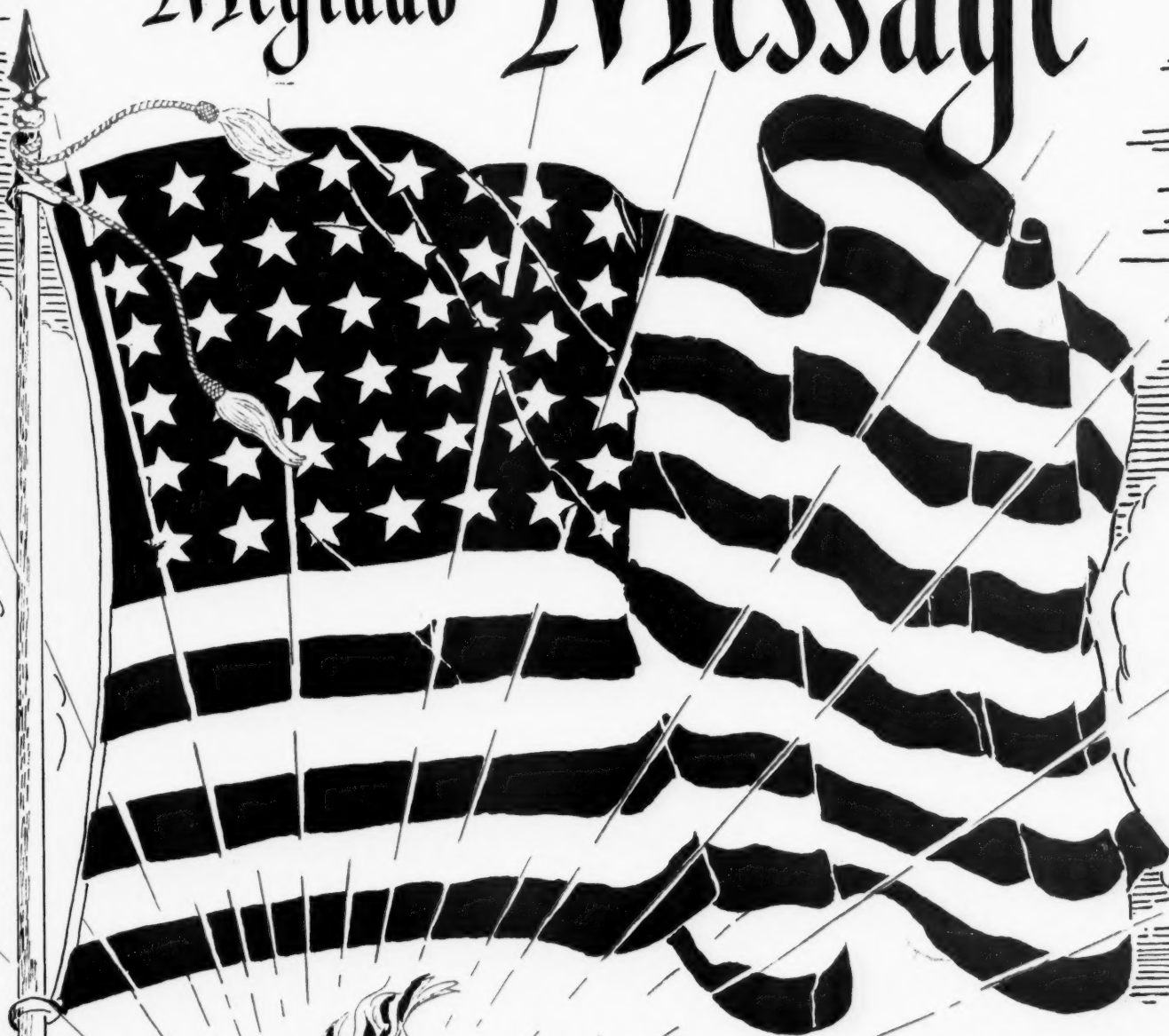


Megiddo Message



*"Let us
Thank God
for AMERICA"*



Vol. 46, No. 13
June 27, 1959

Megiddo Message

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Kenneth E. Flowerday, Editor

A religious magazine, devoted to the cause of Christ and published for the dissemination of Bible truth alone. The MEGIDDO MESSAGE will

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- Answer perplexing religious questions
- Give you courage for these uncertain times
- Help you live above the world's moral corruption
- Reveal to you how to develop a character acceptable to God
- Bring peace and stability to your life

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LETTERS

Deceased

Dear Mission Friends:

At this time we wish to inform you of the death of our mother, Mrs. Mary Frances Simmons who passed away June 1, 1959.

Our mother was attracted to the belief by her husband who first became interested in the early 20's when he read an advertisement in the *Path Finder*, concerning "The Coming of Jesus and Elijah."

She has been an avid reader of the MESSAGE since the death of her husband in Feb. 1927. And even more so in her declining years until her final illness which was of short duration.

She leaves to mourn her passing, seven daughters, two sons, one foster son, three grand-daughters, two sisters and four brothers.

We are comforted with these words: If in this life only we have hope in God, we are of all men most miserable. But our hope lies in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who shall descend from Heaven with a multitude of angels who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, that where He is, there we may be also.

Remember us in your prayers.

Misses Ruby and Elvira Simmons
Charleston, Miss.

God's Work With the Few

Dear Maranatha Sister:

Only a few times has history recorded the multitudes and God marching together. It is truly amazing to read the record and discover how many times during the march of the ages, God has associated with a handful of dedicated people and changed the very highways of mankind. I cannot forget the little handfuls with whom God performed His miracles of the centuries.

I recall that Moses and fleeing Israel stood before the Red Sea, the rod of God lifted toward heaven, and marched through its depths as if on dry land. Moses, with the rod of God in his hand, and a few ex-slaves with faith enough to follow. That is all God ever needed (Ex. 14:16-21).

What an impossible minority when God won with Joseph! With Daniel! With Elijah! With Gideon! With the three Hebrews! With His twelve disciples! For the Lord's conquests are without number. (Heb. 11; Daniel 3:6; Acts 2:41; Acts 4:21; Acts 17:6; Jas. 5:17, 18).

But count them if you will, how many such victories He has won with the multitudes behind Him. Never yet! It always has been God and the *little* army that has dared to trust and fight. We must lean more on the strength of God's minorities.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Your sister striving to do our Father's will.

Belmont, N. H.

V. G.

The True Declaration[!] Of Independence

LIVING AS we do under the flag of the most liberal government on the face of the earth, it is with due respect to man and thanks to God that we assemble today to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the initial step in the movement which resulted in the liberty we now enjoy.

Over eighteen decades of time have passed since the Continental Congress, the instrument of a people who would and could no longer be suppressed by tyranny, despotism and intolerance, adopted the Declaration of Independence without a dissenting vote. It laid down the general maxim that all men are created free and equal, possessing a natural right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Any government, they contended, should be altered when subversive to these ends. They solemnly published and declared that the United Colonies were and of a right ought to be free and independent; and that from thence they absolve all allegiance to the tyrannical British crown.

It was received with country-wide enthusiasm as messengers hastened to spread the action of Congress through the Colonies. They pledged for its support their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Everywhere the people rejoiced. New hopes and aspirations stirred the nation from the very moment the Liberty Bell rang out the decision.

Stirring scenes marked the event. In New York zealous patriots, roused and indignant, pulled down the gilded leaden image of their former ruler and melted it into bullets for their army. Thus began the struggle for freedom.

But while independence was in the heart of the Americans, yet it remained to be established. The contest for liberty must be decided by arms, and the priceless gift sealed with blood. Seven years of hard fighting ensued. At last decisive victory crowned their efforts and established the freedom which they declared theirs by right on July 4th, seven years before. The small twig had grown to a tree of toleration and liberty under which the nation might dwell and Truth, God's Truth, might prosper, for which we are today and every day truly thankful.

While we gratefully share the temporal benefits resulting from the revolution of affairs which the signing of the Declaration of Independence began, today we look and behold how tottery the mighty governmental institution of which the Colonists reared the pillars and built the frame. We see how the poison of corruption and immorality has been diffused among the minds of the nation, politically and socially, so that the cords of our Government have been relaxed, her laws disregarded and licentiousness and corruption are fast destroying the fabric of our nation. And why? Because even now the people are in bondage to a king more tyrannical than the British sovereign—the ruler of spiritual Sodom and Egypt. Everywhere people are held by fetters of greed, selfishness, hate, pride, envy, and jealousy, unbridled passions, etc. The clanking of these chains can be heard on every side, keeping them still in subjection. For just

men only are free; the rest are slaves.

And so we turn today to a doctrine of more vital importance, a genuine DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE whose principles we can subscribe to, fight for, and know that it will gain for us freedom eternal and enable us to be the stone cut out without hands which will become a great mountain that will fill the earth—a foundation of a nation truly free.

The Bible sets forth plainly the unjust claims of iniquity, the law of sin and death, and the unprofitableness thereof. It exhorts to "let not therefore sin reign in your mortal bodies." It reveals the glorious privileges of the children of light now and how to obtain freedom, peace, and prosperity forever; teaching us to aspire to the lofty heights of freedom from every sin; instructing us to live according to the spirit, for "where the spirit of the Lord is, *there is liberty*." It asserts positively that "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Those of us who have grown tired of the oppression of the king of sin and darkness and have subscribed to the noble and inspiring doctrines of the Bible, like the Colonists, have declared that we ought to and will be free and independent from any laws of sin and death.

If we wish to be free, if we mean to obtain the privileges of free men, if we mean not to basely abandon the noble struggle in which all the patriarchs were engaged and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight, contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

They tell us that we are weak and unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be when we are weakened by time and infirmity, and held fast in the snares of death? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs, dreaming there is time enough yet, until our enemies have bound us hand and foot? Never!

Like the Colonists, well might we tear down every gilded, leaden image of our former king. Truly the appearance is superficial as gilt and the whole like as lead which will melt easily under the fire of Truth. They used the melted material as ammunition against him. Shall we not concentrate all the energy formerly used to support the worthless images in our hearts to fight against the king and his legions of evil?

We are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which God has placed in our power. Strengthened with the bread of Heaven, we can overcome all the weaknesses by which we are naturally bound. With eyes anointed with Truth, we can penetrate the darkest design of the ever present enemy, our own deceitful hearts which would rule us. Armed with God's armor of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, we can with vigilance and eagle-eyed caution escape every treacherous plot and resist every poison arrow of envy and jealousy

(Continued on page 9)

“For Such a Time As This”

SOME YEARS ago a Northern Baptist Convention was held in our home city. The convention selected for its motto the words taken from the book of Esther, “For such a time as this.” Obviously the men responsible for the convention were vaguely aware of the importance of the times, but their actions—or rather, their inaction—during the convention, showed their concern was not very deep. The motto, “For such a Time as This” was hung in banners in the convention hall, displayed in special type on the official convention program, and woven into the titles of the main addresses. “Protestantism for Such A Time as This”; “Baptists for Such a Time as This”; “Missions for Such a Time as This”; “Men for Such a Time as This”; “Faith for Such a Time as This.”

But a qualified observer reporting the convention was deeply disappointed. They showed no real concern for their own salvation or that of mankind. Had they possessed the Bible faith, if they could have brought forward the evidence from the Scriptures that there would be such a time of wickedness and distress in the world just prior to Jesus’ second coming, and would have stressed that fact; they would have been producing data that could create faith. The observer said: Their “motto expressed an awareness of the fact that a new world is taking form,” but apparently the personal return of Jesus did not enter into their thinking about that new world. So disappointed was he with results, and the failure of the convention to cope with actual world problems and face conditions as they are, that he said one could almost hear the strains of Nero’s fiddle while Rome burned.

Self-searching at Such a Time as This

We who have assembled in this sanctuary this morning to worship, need to put the question squarely to ourselves: “What am I doing at such a time as this?” We are living at the most momentous era in the history of the world, the time of the consummation “of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21). Patriarchs, prophets, and sages, have looked forward to this time, to see the things so soon to be fulfilled upon earth, and here they are right upon our very doorstep. Very few people in the world today are sincerely looking for these things to come to pass, but we know that they are coming. We have the promise of Almighty God that they will come, and His Word cannot fail. But it is vain mockery to say that we believe the end of Gentile times is upon us, and not demonstrate it by our daily living.

In I Corinthians 10 Paul impresses a lesson for us upon whom the “ends of the world are come.” He refers back to the time when the children of Israel were delivered by Moses, and ate of the spiritual meat and drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them. Now here is the lesson for us: “But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty

thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” We are they upon whom the ends of the ages have come. The Jewish Age ended with the destruction of Jerusalem, A. D. 70, and the history of it is well known to us, and with the appearance of Elijah and Christ the Gentile Age, or the age of man’s misrule, the period of God’s long silence, will end. As Dr. Moffatt translates Paul’s words, our “lot has been cast in the closing hours of the world.” Let us live worthy of the favored position in salvation’s day which has been allotted us.

The Apostle Peter was writing for our very time, and the dissolution of man’s inadequate system of world management, when he said: “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?” (II Pet. 3:11). Christians at such a time as this must be alert and active; they must be up and doing; they must be urging and forcing themselves onward and upward toward holier living and godliness, not slackening the tension and drifting more and more toward the ways of the world. There is too much at stake for us to live even one second as we would have lived had not the hope of eternal salvation brightened our lives.

Peter was tense with concern for his brethren when he wrote the last of his Second Epistle. He realized how much the recipients of that letter—as well as we away down in these last days—needed the warning he was giving. He knew the tendency to slacken the tension, and the danger of such a slackening. He knew how much their pure minds—and ours—needed stirring up, lest we forget. Hence he issued the warning: “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness” (v. 17). No warning could be more timely for such a time as this.

Strong Faith at Such a Time

Remember it is the scoffers who say, “Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” And they also are the ones “walking after their own” desires. The earnest life-seekers are like men who are expecting their Lord, and whether He tarry long or short, they busy themselves getting ready to receive Him when He comes.

In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke of a number of events that would presage His return to earth, and things which we should remember at such a time as this. “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be”

(vs. 37—39). Jesus' Words are being fulfilled before our eyes, and should make us men and women of strong faith at such a time as this.

He foretells that some who, unbelieving, will be saying in their hearts, "My lord delayeth his coming." Let us ponder well before we conclude the Lord is delaying His coming, and that the things that we have held in such bright anticipation will never materialize. Remember, God does not count time as man counts, let us not try to hurry His hand. And let not the seeming calm delude us into believing that the storm will never come. For 120 years prior to the time of the Deluge, Noah preached, warning the people that a storm was coming, pleading with them to prepare to enter the ark. And in the course of time that flood actually came upon the antediluvian world. During all those 120 years of forecasting a flood, Noah was right and the unbelieving masses were wrong. Day after day the sun rose and set with no sign of approaching doom. The people said: Noah, you can't be right! But he was right, and the people were wrong. He was saved, and they were drowned. And remember, "as it was in the days of Noah, . . . so also shall the coming of the Son of man be."

It could easily be that the sun never had risen more magnificently, and nature never seemed more tranquil, than on the morning of that fateful day when Sodom and Gomorrah were visited by the fire of God. Yet God had made known His purpose, and it was done. His word never fails.

Strict Carefulness for Such a Time

Are we allowing ourselves to be influenced by the slackness of the world about us? Are we conforming to the world little by little, surrendering to the natural desire to conform rather than to be different, sinking to their level in place of holding ourselves up to a given standard without deviating one hair's breadth? If we are Christians for such a time as this we will be redeeming the time, knowing that the days are evil, or as one of the newer translations words Eph. 5:15, 16, "Be strictly careful then about the life you lead; act like sensible men, not like thoughtless; make the very most of your time, for these are evil days." We should be coming out from the world more and more each day, so that the distance between their type of life and ours will be greater and more noticeable, rather than growing more and more like them all the time. The world spend their time playing games, engaging in many different types of pastimes, following the bent of their natural minds, assuring themselves that the end justifies the means, and whatsoever seems right to them is right whether any glory to God can be seen in it or not. But this is no time to slacken our pace and drift back into the ways of the world.

This is no time to begin to devise plans to make the cross lighter, to remove the thorn from the rose, or remove completely rugged difficulties from our journey toward the Kingdom. It is the cross that is borne right through to the end that brings the crown. A drowning man may reach for the rope thrown him, he may take hold of the rope, he may hang on until he is drawn nearly to shore, but if he lets go just before he reaches safety he will not be saved. Jesus said, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

We may have made many sacrifices, we may have given up much for Christ and His kingdom, we may have

put our shoulder to the wheel and willingly helped on in many ways, but let us remember the mill does not run on water that has gone over the dam. Eternal life will not be ours because we ran exceedingly well for a season,—or for many many years: it is he that *endures unto the end* that shall be saved.

No doubt Demas was a willing and efficient assistant to Paul the great Christian missionary until he allowed the love of the present world to get too strong a hold on his affections, then, like Esau, he sold his right to the grand Spirit birth, for a mess of worldly pottage.

Jesus' Warning for Such a Time

Jesus Himself issued a warning we should take heed to at such a time as this. We find this warning recorded in Luke 21:34, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." It is so easy to be all absorbed with what we see about us, the pressing interests of our mortal existence, what shall we eat, what shall we drink, where-with shall we be clothed? It is true that we need to make a living; during the summer we need to give thought of our needs for the approaching winter, but they must not be first. The cares of this life must not be allowed to take too prominent a place in our heart's affections, they must be used as a means to an end, and not as an end in themselves. Our chief concern must be to prevent that day from coming upon us unawares. Then in v. 36 Jesus voiced the attitude most needed for such a time as this: "Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Some day soon we shall find ourselves face to face with immortal men and women from other parts of God's universe, people to whom the deepest secrets of our hearts will be as open and obvious as the features of our faces. We cannot hide from them, they will know what we are, they will know our true attitude toward God and His commandments. They will know whether our hearts are pure, or if sin still lurks in their hidden recesses. Oh, how much we would give then for a little more time! Why not use that time now?

Isaiah's View for Such a Time

We will turn to Isaiah 59 where we can read of "such a time as this," and where the Prophet is foretelling what the end will be. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." That is the trouble—your iniquities. Moffatt translates that verse: "The Eternal's hand is not too short to save, the Eternal's ear is not too dull to hear! It is your own iniquities that interfere between your God and you; your sins have made him veil his face from you, until he will not listen." Ah! it is sin, evil and iniquity, that interfere between your God and you; it is the condition of your own life. God is alive. He is holding out His hand to us, but if we do not put our sin and iniquity away He will not listen; we will go to destruction with this wicked, ungodly world.

The Prophet says: "Justice has to turn away defeated, right is forced to hold aloof, for truth in our assemblies

has no footing, honesty cannot enter there." How very true! That is the condition of the world, this world of evil; "justice has to turn away defeated." Do you wonder that Paul foretold that in these last days perilous times would come? We will read this 15th verse of Isaiah 59 in the King James Version: "Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey," or, as we read in the margin, "is accounted mad." They think men and women who depart from iniquity, who proclaim that Christians must wash and be clean, cease to do evil and learn to do well or the barred gate of the Heavenly City will never open to them, are beside themselves; yes, they are accounted mad. "And the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment." Ah! it displeased God when He looked down on this condition and saw there was no judgment and no justice among the nations of earth.

"And he saw that there was no man"—In that convention they were looking for a man in "such a time as this," trying to find a man to straighten out the tangled condition of the world. But the Lord says there is no such man. "Therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." Yes, God is righteous. "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak." He carries us down to the time when Christ will put on the garments of vengeance. The Lord will not always endure "such a time as this," the wicked, corrupt condition of the world.

"According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun." "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him." The enemy is coming in like a flood now; iniquity is abounding. They acknowledge it themselves; that is, thinking men do.

Hope for Such a Time

"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord." That is what is going to happen in "such a time as this." The Redeemer is coming, Christ the mighty One who said "I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also." When iniquity comes in like a flood, when it comes greater and greater, then the Lord will send a mighty Redeemer. First He will send Elijah the Prophet as His forerunner, then the Redeemer will come to mete out justice and judgment. That is what is needed at "such a time as this."

Let us turn to Psalm 72, and there we will find the remedy. "Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son." The King's Son is the Redeemer that is coming. "He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor." What a remedy for such evil as at the present day! "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth." My! what blessings he will bring. "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth." They do not know how to secure peace now.

But at this time when the Redeemer comes, there "shall be abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him." He is coming with His judgments. We are told in Rev. 5:5 and 6:2 that Christ is coming as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah. . . conquering and to conquer," to bring into subjection the forces of evil. "For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and the needy, and shall save the souls of the needy."

That is a wonderful description of God's coming Kingdom, and the beauty of it is that it will never end. "His name shall endure forever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed." Then shall be fulfilled the words of Matt. 5:5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Now if we want to inherit the earth, if we want to gain the blessing when the Redeemer comes, if we want to rule in such a time, we must become meek, humble and lowly.

Work for Such a Time as This

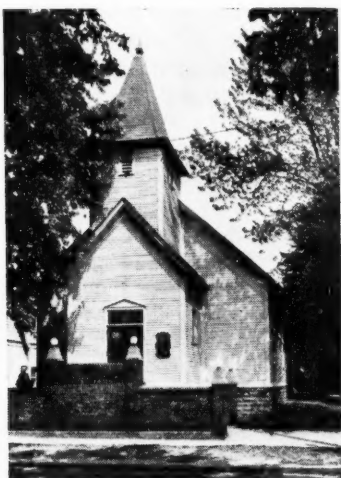
In Isa. 1:16, 17 the lesson is forced home upon us, what we must do in "such a time as this." It is "wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well." It is *the* only thing that will save us in "such a time as this." We read some urgent advice in Hebrews 10. We will begin reading at verse 22: "Let us draw near with a true heart"—yes, a true heart; true to God and His Word—"in full assurance of faith,"—as we see the Word fulfilled, let us have full assurance of faith, faith that comes as the result of evidence—"having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water"—this water of truth.

The term "sprinkled" is used because this life-giving water is sprinkled by the Prophets, as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jesus, Paul, and others; it is the water of life, which, if we will drink of and wash in its cleansing stream, will bring life eternal. As we read in Jeremiah 4:14: "O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?" We must get rid of our vain thoughts in "such a time as this." "Let us," as we read in Heb. 10:23, "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering"—Never for a moment waver in this wonderful truth—" (for he is faithful that promised)"—yes, God is faithful—"and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works,"—not have wrath, anger, and malice; but let us show by our actions, by our willingness to confess our faults, that we are provoking unto love and to good works. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together"—oh, no! "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another." It is necessary in "such a time as this." "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

In "such a time as this" do we not see the day approaching, that Day which is coming when the Redeemer shall arise? When iniquity comes in as a flood God will send the Redeemer to rescue us—to rescue the faithful. "For ye have need of patience"—yes, as we look out

upon the world we see evil on all sides; they say God is not alive. Therefore, in this time of unbelief and sinfulness, "ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

We are now in a little tarrying time, but it will be only a little while after we see the day approaching until "he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." In reality it does not tarry; it only appears to us to tarry. "Now the just shall live by faith"—we will be given such evidence of the condition of the world, that we can live by faith—"but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." If he draws back, says the Lord, if he grows weary in well doing, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Let us prove by our actions, by what we are doing every day, by our humility, our contrition, our humble life, that we are not among those who draw back unto perdition, but of those who believe fully, to the saving of the soul.



A House of Comfort

I Found All This

*A room of quiet, a temple of peace;
The home of faith, where doubtings cease.
A house of comfort, where hope is given,
A source of strength to make earth heaven;
A shrine of worship, a place to pray—
I found all this in my church today.*

.....

When a wise man makes a mistake, he always takes the blame to himself. When a fool fails, he always puts it on someone else.



The fault of another is a good teacher.

Heroes Of Faith

THE PATH of a Christian's progress upward is a staircase of crisis upon crisis. The heroes who meet these crises are men of faith. Faith is not a virtue, to be exercised only when we sit in an easy chair and think of God's dealings with His people of old. While it is nurtured in days of calmness, it must be exercised in times of calamity. When we can see no human outlet to our problems, no relief in sight, then to have a reserve investment of faith from which to draw and move right ahead according to God's law is very essential.

It was said to brave Daniel: "Those who know their God shall be steadfast and take action" (Dan. 11:32, Moffatt).

Daniel and his three companions were heroes of faith when, faced with death sentence from the King for obedience to God's law, they remained steadfast. God tests His heroes to the utmost, but never forsakes them.

We might be soldiers for the Lord and fight some battles, but do we have the faith-produced heroism to place ourselves in the front of the battle and see it through when the enemy surrounds us on all sides? Do we and will we remain true to principle regardless of how high around us rises the tide of indifference?

The Lord revealed to Joseph, one of His young heroes of faith, that he was to be ruler and his family should bow down to him. What was the first step upward toward this exaltation? To be put in a pit by those wicked brothers who later were to bow down to him, then sold by them as a slave in a foreign land. It might have seemed that his dream had been in reverse but faith was at work in Joseph's young life or he would not have risen above this crisis and remained true to his God—alone in a heathen land, and at a tender age. The second step? A degree of popularity. The third? A temptation. He fled from it. He was a hero in the making. The fourth? As a result of his virtue he was imprisoned for two years. What more trying tests could any one meet than these?

How many times the Lord's hand seemed to turn him back for a greater test! With each crisis in his life he rose to greater heights, while to a man of less faith it might have appeared that God's hand was against him. With his faith, Joseph realized that God was developing him, testing his heroism. These tests were in preparation for a position of trust to which Joseph committed himself so admirably, unsullied by the temptations of power or wealth; and in the future he will be an able co-ruler with Christ.

The widow of Zarephath was a heroine of faith. Without a depth of faith in God and His Prophet, she would not have conquered her natural sympathy and performed the unselfish act of sustaining the Prophet of the Lord instead of her son and herself in the face of starvation.

Obadiah, as governor in the palace of a revengeful apostate king and queen, was a hero of faith to openly and fearlessly confess the Almighty God.

And what of Elijah, with his mighty acts of heroism? His faith and courage stand as monuments to his name.

Paul met crisis after crisis in his life. But consider the attitude with which he started his missionary effort. He did not go to some remote corner of the Roman empire

to testify for the Lord; he went directly to Damascus and Jerusalem, where the fire against Christianity was the hottest. Arguments only made him the more vigorous. He went into the very synagogues where he had argued against Stephen and there spoke with all his power—for Jesus. An illustrious hero was he, strong and resolute, with the full blood of boundless energy.

Remember, these were heroes of Faith. It was faith that made them invincible to the foes of righteousness. They had unwavering faith in God's promises; consequently expecting great things from God they were ready to do great things for God. Their faith being large, their lives were enlarged.

"The heroes of faith are calling to us from the heights they have won, telling us that what man *has* done, man *can* do again. Not only do they remind us of faith but also of patience that faith won. God is preparing His heroes and when the opportunity comes, He will fit them into their places in a moment."

Heroes are not cultured in rose gardens. It is by surmounting formidable obstacles and difficulties with indomitable Christian spirit that they are formed. Many are the heroes who have displayed noteworthy courage in the physical life who are worthy of our respect. But distinguished courage in moral life is superbly superior.

What makes a hero of faith? It is the sum total of character guided and enlivened by strong, passionate faith. Faith, small at the start, like a grain of mustard seed, grows until it can say to the mightiest mountain of trial or obstacle in life, "Be thou removed and cast into the sea," and it will obey. No one was ever born a hero. No one ever jumped into that position, and no one was ever born with enlightened faith. They are qualities acquired, grown and developed. They grow from the seed that is planted and nourished in the heart.

Jesus Christ's lessons in submission so obediently rendered, bred the character that made of Him such a hero of faith when that fateful night arrived, which raised Him to the position of Captain of the host of such heroes. Do we ponder how the thoughts of these individuals must have focused during their time of trial to have wrought such nobility? Ambitious persons naturally aspire to great things. But one of life's greatest lessons to be learned, is that greatness comes from thinking above ourselves, in majestic realms, on noble and lofty things, and from small virtues oft repeated.

Expanded thoughts developed make an expanded and well developed character. "My father, if the Prophet had bid thee do some *great* thing, wouldest thou not have done it?" But to conquer and subdue pride and haughtiness thus developing, expanding the humility to "wash and be clean" requires actually "superlative, often transcendent courage" indeed, a "superhumanly high purpose." For this washing and conquering is of the mind and its thoughts which present the wildest, most treacherous and most countless of ever-active foes.

The great heroes of faith "might live in a tent or a cottage, and die in seclusion unknown," and unsung by the world, yet will be remembered, honored, renowned when the battles of salvation's day all are ended, and Christ calls His soldiers to receive their reward of eternal life.

What of our characters yesterday and today? Have we been meeting the little tests of every day life so that God is pleased with us? Have we been guided by kind and

unselfish principles? Have we shown our faith by our works? Can these about us see that Christ, "the hope of glory," is in us? Is our life being raised from our natural downward tendencies so it could be said of us, "Consider the lilies, how they grow?"

Are we faithful in the little duties entrusted to our care not thinking any duty of life too small or insignificant to be discharged in seemly order and promptness? Are we careful not to waste moments, or our substance, that the Lord has blessed us with, even though to do so is the trend of the times? Are we keeping the tension tight, even tighter as we see the slackness of the age? These little acts all add toward making a true hero of the faith. If we are not faithful in little things, the Lord will never commit to our care, greater responsibilities or eternal riches.

God may never call on us to do some great outstanding deed like a Joseph, Daniel or Paul. As has been said, "To live well in the quiet routine of life, to fill a little space because God wills it, to go on cheerfully with a petty round of little duties; to smile for the joys of others when the heart is aching—who does this, his works will follow him." Of such are God's heroes, for the "grandest of heroic deeds are those which are performed within four walls and in domestic privacy." Henry Ward Beecher declared "more heroism has been displayed in the household and closet, [the common realm of Christians] than on the most memorable battlefields of history."

If, in these common quarters, we overcome all the evil that confronts and defiles, it will be because of our undying and steadfast faith, and God will rank us with His heroes. Those who make this change, God certainly considers heroes, for He terms them "Men to be wondered at."

Wholesome Home Life

Very much of the earliest education, the most valuable and enduring is that which is acquired in the home, through the medium of imitation. The child begins to copy the sights and sounds about him. Thus the first words are learned. During the entire period of his childhood, he imitates the language and manners and emotions of older ones about him. If he lives among people whose language is correct and agreeable, and whose manners are pleasant, behavior gentle, and kind, he will unconsciously acquire similar ways.

If kindness and consideration for each other are the rule in the home, these qualities will impress themselves upon the child. Good manners are a valuable asset to every person, but good manners have their origin in fine qualities of mind and heart. Men who as children heard profane language daily in the home, today use it however well educated they may be. Untidy, shiftless examples in the home, turn out men and women stamped with these undesirable and harmful qualities. It is very clear that parents have an enormous responsibility toward the children they rear.

Not only is the child affected, but the community in which he lives, and in fact, the nation, for the nation is made up of individuals. The refinement and prosperity of any nation never rises above its home life. —Sel.

Watch Your Station

WHEN WORKING alone in the world, we need a double guard around us all the time. Temptations are on every side and to have "every act and thought so holy we'll forget that we ever sinned"—this takes forethought. Danger is on every side and all around. Remember the world around is "watching you." We are telling the world our life's story—how we live; they judge us. We now must be shining lights so they can some day glorify God by our actions now. Oh! we have to be so careful how we live through each day—our emotions, our words, our feelings. Do we speak kindly toward friend or foe? Are we never raising our voice, but keeping it at an even tone, always speaking and acting as if the angel is right behind our back?

Every moment of every day must be carefully lived, and

"Does your life broadcast a story
That is fine and brave and true,
Or send out on the ether
Some sobbing, wailing blue?

Is your life a noble sermon,
Being broadcast far and wide,
Or just a pack of theories
That you've never really tried?

Does it bring to men a message
That will teach them to be strong?
Are you seeking as you broadcast
To help the Truth along?

Then check up on your program,
Make it strong and clear and true;
Be careful what you broadcast
From Station Y—O—U!!

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

(Continued from page 11)

Jesus appeared unexpectedly to His disciples as they were gathered together with the two brethren who conversed with Him on the road to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection. He said to them: "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). When speaking of His not coming to destroy the law or the prophets until all be fulfilled (Matt. 5:17), Jesus obviously was speaking of the predictions of the prophets. Their moral teachings would be timeless, only the events they foretold could be fulfilled.

A man in San Benito, Texas once asked a number of our missionaries for some listing of Christian duties that would be equally as comprehensive as the Ten Commandments. Ephesians the fifth chapter was suggested. That chapter, if obeyed, should fit one for salvation. It is comprehensive, covering nearly every phase of the Christian life. And Colossians 3 runs it a close second.

THE TRUE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

(Continued from page 3)

that would strike fatally like a dart in the liver. Girding up the loins of our mind with God's Truth, we can conquer the tyrannous thoughts and demands of our own mind, determined not to be bound by any of its conclusions or fossilized in any pattern it may invent, for this is to give up our kingdom and bow down our necks to the dread enemy, Death.

From this great struggle there is no retreat but in submission and slavery. The chains are forged. If we yield we will be bound *now* and *finally* in the dark dungeon of death, forever; while the victors, those who have adopted the principles of the Bible, the true Declaration of Independence, who fought for them and lived by them, will enjoy the eternal freedom it promises.

Let the glorious doctrine of the most liberating document, written by inspired patriarchs in letters of gold and sealed by the Maker of the universe, influence our lives and hasten us to quicker action in bringing to a successful close the warfare with iniquity and gain for us the freedom from sin, death, and the grave, acquiring for us an eternal abode in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Then we will be prepared for the day when the blessings of spiritual liberty are showered over the earth's four corners and the blaze of Truth enlightens the bewildered nations which have become blind in the house of spiritual bondage, when a system of justice, righteousness, peace and order is educed out of chaos, when people will be free and fit to use their freedom, when the vault of heaven rings with the rejoicing and thanksgiving poured out continually by *living* millions of freemen—Christians. We will then be very glad that we adopted, lived by and fought for the principles of the *true Declaration of Independence*.

Morning, Noon, And Night

IT WAS said of Jesus that, "in the morning rising up a great while before day, He went out and departed into a solitary place and there prayed." How we too need constantly to be in that prayerful attitude of seeking help from above, before the cares and trials of the day cross our pathway! Who can foresee the trials which will be ours before the sun shall set? We need to prepare for the unexpected, for trials and tests will come to try our patience. We need to make David's prayer ours also: "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord. In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee and will look up. Lead me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness because of mine enemies. Make Thy way straight before my face" (Ps. 5:3-8). We shall know and feel His constant nearness, and His presence will give rest and peace through all that the hours may bring.

When day is done and night draws its curtains of darkness, bringing a blessed "quiet hour"—we can again commune with Him, carefully analyzing all that the day has brought. His peace will be ours if the day has been one of His planning. The secret of peace in the evening, is seeking Him all day long.

Meditations

On the Word

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they may be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." (Romans 10: 1, 2).

In these words Paul gives us a deep insight into his own character. For he shows a profound regard for the welfare of his brethren. While demonstrating a kind and considerate disposition, he is, nevertheless, concerned about their misguided zeal, and even waxes strong and determined when he says; "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

How many converts to a false faith have demonstrated a strong and noble brand of zeal, a zeal which too often has exceeded our own in the true and living faith. We might mention the many martyrs who gave their lives during the so-called Reformation, who resolutely defended their belief in the face of death. Countless thousands of converts to Oriental religions make long pilgrimages to the birthplace of their founders, some struggling on crutches or even being carried to the hallowed spot. Even in our own country today we find many people who are willing to forego pleasures and freedoms to labor relentlessly in a cause which they believe in.

For us as Christians, it is important that we continually take stock of our zeal to determine whether it is according to knowledge, the knowledge of God, or according to our own concepts. It is so very easy to be deceived in these things. It will take earnest and sincere thought and careful evaluation of our motives and actions to determine the facts.

Paul, once found himself a victim of misguided zeal. He was not only following a false faith himself, but was determined to silence all opposition. He even threatened imprisonment and death to those who were actually doing God's will, but whom he believed to be opposers. Paul in this case as in many others is a great example to us, for when the Lord appeared unto him in the Damascus way and informed him of the right way, he was immediately obedient. In fact his complete reversal of conduct was so sudden and baffling to the Christians in Damascus and Jerusalem that it was some time before they would accept him as one of their number.

We find the remainder of Paul's life to be a worthy example of zeal according to God's knowledge. We find him constantly exhorting his followers to God-inspired zeal by such action phrases as: "it is high time to awake out of sleep"; "cast off the works of darkness, . . . put on the armor of light"; "be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"; "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." It is impossible to accomplish the Lord's work without zeal, but it must be zeal directed by knowledge. Paul not only tried to impart the necessary zeal to his followers but

he demonstrated a burning zeal in his own life. So much so that near its close he could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." What a consolation to be able to say that with confidence!

We find an interesting example of zeal in the person of Jehu (the son of Jehoshaphat or Minshi). This was the Jehu who was noted for his furious driving, or as we would say today, "speeding." Regardless of his driving habits, he seems to have demonstrated a great deal of energy in carrying out the Lord's wishes. Until recently the kingdom of Israel had been ruled by the wicked king Ahab—and his even more dissolute wife, Jezebel. In addition, the religion of the land was virtually in the hands of the worshippers of Baal, a pagan god. Elijah had dealt a telling blow to this false religion at Mt. Carmel, but much remained to be done.

To Jehu was assigned the task of cutting off the wicked house of Ahab, which he promptly proceeded to do. In II Kings 10:16 we read that when he met his acquaintance, Jehonadab, he said to him, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord," and he completed the Lord's judgments on the house of Ahab and the Baal worshippers.

But the sad part of this story is that even after all this demonstration of zeal for the Lord, Jehu "took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord—with all his heart." Here is an outstanding example for us. Jehu showed he had courage. He was fearless in carrying out the Lord's commands. He did not regard the person of the mighty, either of kings or queens. He demonstrated implicit obedience to Divine order. Nevertheless when it came to his own personal life, he took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord with all his heart. He lacked the inner intensity of purpose to alter his own life.

Without enlightened zeal our armor would never be in position to protect us. We would be as a city broken down and without walls.

The verse following our text defines zeal without knowledge: "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3). Many people during the Apostolic Age possessed zeal without knowledge, and that mis-directed effort was especially applicable to the Hebrews in Paul's time. In Matthew 23 Jesus sternly denounced the Pharisees for their inconsistent life. They paid tithe of "mint and anise and cummin" but "omitted the weightier matters of the law," they made "clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they [were] full of extortion and excess," they outwardly appeared "righteous unto men," but within were "full of hypocrisy and iniquity." They had zeal without knowledge.

And today there are people who practice self-imposed forms of righteousness. They will engage in types of ritual which are not commanded by God, and become very zealous in their prosecution of these forms of godliness, but will not submit themselves to the righteousness of God.

It has been truly said that nothing worth while was ever accomplished without zeal. God has supplied us with the knowledge of His requirements. Now it is entirely up to each individual to combine that knowledge with zeal, the culmination of which will be the greatest reward to which mortal man could aspire, eternal life.

Your Questions Answered



BIBLICAL

PERSONAL

CURRENT

Do you have a question? Personal replies to Biblical questions will be sent to any correspondent, and counsel will be offered on problems pertaining to the spiritual life. The MEGIDDO MESSAGE will publish only the most helpful discussions for the benefit of other readers. No names shall be mentioned.

Our subscriber friend living in Vergennes, Vt., is seeking a clearer understanding of the relative value between the Law and the Prophets. From his statements we perceive he has a fairly clear insight into the Bible teaching regarding the Mosaic Law, its purpose, its duration, and its destiny. We quote from his letter:

"I realize that the Ten Commandments were only temporary laws to bring the children of Israel to Christ. Then when Christ did come on earth a new order came into being."

Now while this teaching seems plain to him he experiences opposition from others who strive to prove the validity of the Ten Commandment Law. We quote again:

"Now this is what I am up against. When I try to tell people this, and then quote some other parts of the Old Testament, they will say right off, 'If the Ten Commandments are done away with, the rest of the Old Testament is also done away.'"

It would be hard to improve upon the statement in the next paragraph of our friend's letter: "I maintain that there is a difference between the law of Moses and prophecy. The Law was to keep the people as law abiding citizens while what the Prophets said was for another purpose. It was telling people of their sins, not only the children of Israel, but for all generations to come."

A short sketch of the Bible teaching regarding the Law and the Prophets will support the above. The plan of holy living which will fit a man or a woman to receive eternal salvation began to be revealed when the man Adam first entered the contest for eternal life. Just how fully this plan was revealed to the "ancients" we are not told, but the events associated with Cain's slaying of his brother Abel reveals they were informed about God's demands for personal righteousness. More than a millennium later God's demand was revealed to Abraham in clear sharp outline: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1).

To the Prophets such divine revelations of God's saving knowledge were styled "the word of the Lord," as it was revealed to so and so. To Jesus and His apostles it was known as "the gospel," "the power of God to salvation," the "way, the truth, and the life." For the sake of clarity let us style it the *law of faith*. Hebrews 13:20 refers to it as the "everlasting covenant." Romans 9:30 refers to the righteousness resulting from its application as "the righteousness which is of faith." It was a system of divine law, the beautiful, unchanging, eternal principles of truth and righteousness. It gave to man a lofty and unparalleled standard of moral conduct by which he might become so perfect that the limits of mortality would be powerless to confine him, so transformed, so pure, so holy as to belong to eternity.

But there was another law given by God through His angel on Mt. Sinai. This was at the time Moses delivered Israel from Egypt. For six, eight or more generations

the Hebrews had been bondmen in Egypt, and upon their deliverance they were wholly unfitted for self-government. The Lord working through Moses forged them into a nation, and the Law given on Sinai, with its ordinances, was largely responsible for this transformation.

But this Mosaic Law was not designed to fit its adherents for salvation. It was a national law to the Hebrew nation, and no more. This thought is clearly expressed in Rom. 3:20 and Gal. 2:16: "Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight," "for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." And for this reason the Law ended, it ceased by limitation, it was superseded.

Now before this background let us picture the merits of the law of faith epitomized in the command to Abraham, "Walk before me, and be thou perfect." This law was in existence from the time Adam was placed on probation for eternal life. Over the years Patriarchs, Prophets, all of God's spokesmen, added their bit to the formulation of that law. The law of faith existed before the Mosaic Law, hence it could be said "the law was added [to it] until the seed should come, which is Christ" (Gal. 3:19). The Mosaic Law was added to the then-existent law of faith. Then the two laws existed parallel to each other for some fifteen hundred years, or until the time of Christ's ministry. Then the Mosaic Law terminated, and only the law of faith—consisting of the main body of the moral teaching of the Prophets, Jesus, and the people He authorized to speak for Him, remained.

Hebrews 10:20 reveals this system of teaching which was being stressed during apostolic times as a "new and living way." Vs. 19, 20 read as follows: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh." This way was not new in the sense of being newly formulated, for it was as old as God's plan of salvation for mankind, but it was always fresh, active, up to the minute, ahead of the times.

From the wording of Hebrews 10:20 some students of Scripture conclude that the death and blood of Christ on the cross composes the "new and living way," that it was a plan of salvation not open to the adherents to the law of faith before that time. Vs. 21—25 show the facts to be otherwise. "And having an high priest over the house; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." The Christian effort, *after* Christ, had to be made within the framework of the demands of the law of faith, the same as before His arrival.

During Christ's ministry, as well as in His talks with His disciples after His resurrection, He often referred to the sayings of the prophets as authority to buttress His statements. Upon a few occasions He quoted from the law, for example, John 10:34; 15:25. Both of these texts however refer to the Psalms, hence "law," in some cases may have meant Old Testament scriptures. When

(Continued on page 9)

The Meaning of Freedom

Oh, Red, White and Blue, symbolic of freedom,
Where ever thy sheltering folds ride the breeze;
Today our thoughts turn to the birth of thy kingdom—
Today, Stars and Stripes, we pay homage to thee.
We think of the brave men who fought in defending
Thy life from all danger down through the long years;
We think of the hardships endured in contending,
The weeping and mourning, the sighing and tears.

Today we give thanks for the colors now streaming,
Majestically flying from housetop and pole;
For under thy shelter a Light is now gleaming—
A wonderful light that enriches the soul.
Thy folds granted freedom to search for a treasure
Long hid from the eyes of the wicked, profane;
A heritage priceless no power can measure:
True riches that each one should strive to obtain.

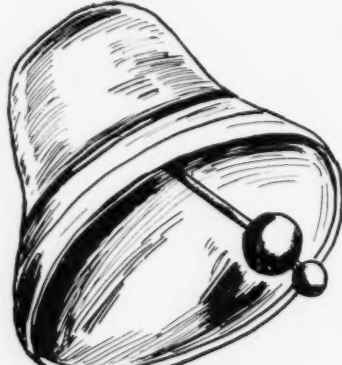
Sweet liberty! what is more precious than freedom!
May we e'er use it to glorify God.
Not as a cloak for our sins as we shield them—
Instead, we should welcome the chastening rod.
Many indeed are thy tributes ascending,
But of all blessings thy subjects recount,
Truth is the one ev'ry other transcending—
To all the thirsty a life-giving fount.

Surely thy star-spangled banner protected
Our mother the Truth, till her strength she regained:
Till some in these last days the glad note detected,
Turning from sin to salvation obtain.
Now we see Truth in its beauty resplendent,
Shine as a light in the darkness to guide
Those who are seeking a City that's permanent,
Where for eternity they may abide.

Long has our God suffered earth to be trampled
'Neath Gentile feet, as His Word they denied,
For a just few who would heed the example
Of Jesus, while all of the world they defied.
Long has the mercy of God been extended;
Soon He shall speak in His wrath from above;
Wielding His sword till all carnage is ended;
Sparing but those who His precepts will love.

When He has finished, what joy to the faithful!
Peace and good will shall encompass the earth.
No sin remaining, but ev'ry thing needful.
Then shall true freedom be given its birth.
Freedom! yes, freedom from sickness and sorrow;
Pain and disease shall forever take flight.
Carnage and crime shall not be on that morrow.
Eternal day shall replace the dark night.

"Proclaim
Liberty
throughout
all the land



unto all
the
Inhabitants
thereof"

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